

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 are now present in this application.

Claims 4-6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by LIN, U.S. Patent 5,828,380. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over LIN. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 1-3 and 7-9 to be allowable. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that claims 4-6 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the 35 USC 102(e) and 103 rejections have been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By Joe McKinney Muncy
Joe McKinney Muncy, #32,334

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

KM/asc
0941-0486P